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## N° XLIV.

*Some Account of a motley coloured, or pye Negro Girl and Mulatto Boy, exhibited before the Society in the Month of May, 1784, for their examination, by Dr. JOHN MORGAN, from the History given of them by their owner Monsf. Le Vallois, Dentist of the King of France at Guadaloupe in the West Indies, as follows.*

**A**DELAIDE, the little girl now before the society, is aged two years and little more than one month, is of a clear black colour, verging to brown, except that she has a white spot bearing some resemblance to an aigrette; the point of which is at the root of the nose, and it rises into the hair, above the forehead, of which it occupies above an inch in width, from the margin to the fontanelle. In this part the colour of the hair is white, and it is curly like the hair of negroes in general, and thicker in that part than on any other part of its head. In the middle of its forehead and on the aigrette, is a large black spot; on the external side next to the temples, about one half of each eye-lid, both upper and under, is black, and the remaining half next to the nose is white.

The eyes are black and lively, a little to the left and towards the middle of the chin a white spot begins, which is long in proportion to its breadth, but of less magnitude than that of the forehead: It stretches under the chin to the upper part of the throat. The neck, the upper and under part of the chest, the shoulders, the back, loins and buttocks to the junction with the thighs, and the pudendum, are of the colour of her face, but the loins and the thicker part of the buttocks are of a deeper black.

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The arms from the upper and middle part are white, and interspersed with black spots. There are some smaller and more numerous about her knees than elsewhere.

Upon the large black spots there are also many smaller and blacker which are very glaring. Many of these spots divide into four, five and six rays, resembling a star, which are not observed but by a close inspection, and then they are very visible. In several parts those spots, being of different shades, give an exact picture of lunar eclipses, as they are commonly represented in the books of astronomy. The hands, the middle part of the fore arms, the inferior and middle parts of the legs and feet are black, which have a pretty striking resemblance to gloves and to buskins.

The white that prevails over the breast, and over the belly, arms and thighs, has a lively appearance. The skin is soft, smooth and sleek.

Adelaide has fine features; we meet with few negroes of so beautiful a form. In her temper she is cheerful, gay and sportful, and as tall as children of her age generally are, and hath evidently a very delicate temperament, yet enjoys pretty good health, neither hath she eyes, nor ears, nor any particularity in her features, or external conformation, like what may be seen at the first inspection in those who are called white negroes, whose skin is altogether of a dead white colour, and whose woolly white hair and features resemble those of their negro parents.

From this detail we may remark that the alteration of the natural colour of Adelaide, takes place over the same parts of the body, for the most part, as over the body of Maria Sabina, of whom Monsr. Buffon gives an account; and considering it as a well authenticated fact, from all the information that has been received of Adelaide, that she had a negro father and negro mother, we are led to believe, that the English account under the portrait of Maria Sabina is exact, and not asserted merely for the sake

fake of covering the honor of the mother, and of the society in which she was a slave.

The pyed mulatto boy is named Jean Pierre. He is a month younger than Adelaide; but from his figure, which is robust, he appears to be six months older. He as well as Adelaide both belong to Monf. le Vallois. He was born at Grandterre, Guadaloupe, of a negro wench named Carolina and of a white man, an European, whose name I did not learn.

A certificate which Monf. le Vallois has with him, legally authenticated by Monf. Blin, lieutenant judge, given from under the hand of Monf. des Effart, king's physician, and of Monf. Cumin, king's surgeon, at Grandterre, Guadaloupe, attests that Adelaide was born at Gros-Islet in St. Lucia, that Bridget her mother is a negro of the Ibo nation, and now reckoned to be about twenty-five years old, and that her father, whose name is Raphael, is a negro of the Mina nation. In this certificate it is farther declared that the father of Jean Pierre has white spots (that is of a deeper white than his natural skin) of the same shape and in the same parts of the body as the son, and that the mother and one of the brothers of this boy's European father have like white spots, and in the same parts of the body.

However it may be in respect to those observations concerning the supposed resemblance of the white spots they may bear about them, to those which mark Jean Pierre, it suffices to take notice here, that his body is entirely of the colour of a mulatto, except that he has from nature a white aigrette in his forehead like that of Adelaide. The hair in that part is white mixed with black, which is not so in Adelaide. The stomach, and the legs from two inches above the ancles to the middle of the calf of the legs are entirely of a beautiful lively white; there is also a white spot in the upper part of the penis. Over the white parts  
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of the legs there is a light white down, longer and thicker than children commonly have at this age.

Such is the natural history of those two extraordinary children; but what causes have produced those surprising phenomena and alteration of the natural colour of their skin, are left for others to investigate and explain.

Monf. le Vallois relates that the mother of Adelaide, whilst pregnant with her, was delighted in laying out all night in the open air, and contemplating the stars and planets, and that the great grandmother of Jean Pierre (a white lady) during the time of her being with child of her daughter, his grandmother by the father's side, was frightened on having some milk spilled upon her. Whether this will account for her daughter and grandchildren being marked in the manner related, and for the spots observed on the mulatto boy descending to him; or whether the strong impression made upon the mother of Adelaide, by the nightly view of the stars and planetary system, may be considered as the cause of the very extraordinary appearances in that girl, every one will determine for themselves; there being many who dispute childrens being ever marked by the fears, longings, or impressions made by mothers on the bodies of their children, at a certain time of pregnancy; for which they endeavour to account in different ways; whilst others who have known a variety of children born with different marks on them, (which have fallen under their particular notice) are equally confident of those marks proceeding from the causes alledged.